

10-6-1971

# The University of Dayton Opens Campus to the Public

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## Recommended Citation

"The University of Dayton Opens Campus to the Public" (1971). *News Releases*. 3813.  
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**THE UNIVERSITY OF DAYTON  
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DAYTON, Ohio, October 6, 1971 --- As part of the historical Tour of the Archdiocese of Cincinnati during its Sesquicentennial Observance, the University of Dayton will open its campus to the Dayton area public this Sunday, October 10, between 1 p.m. and 5 p.m.

Special tour maps and other historical information about the campus, the Society of Mary and the Daughters of Mary Immaculate, both Marianist foundations, will be available in the University's Information Center in the lobby of the John F. Kennedy Memorial Union. Parking will be in Lot B.

The University of Dayton has been a part of the Archdiocese of Cincinnati for 121 years while the first Marianist priest came to Cincinnati from France in 1849. During that period of time, the University and Society of Mary have not only educated thousands upon thousands of young men and women, but served extensively in parishes and with community projects of all natures. Rev. Leo Meyer, first Marianist in America, for instance, worked weeks with medical men on the cholera epidemic of 1849.

The Immaculate Conception Chapel on the University campus has served as a house of worship for almost 102 years while many of its other buildings, still standing, have been educational, recreational, and living quarters for thousands of persons living in southwestern Ohio. The chapel is the only consecrated church in Dayton. (Churches are usually blessed rather than consecrated.)

St. Mary's Hall was the largest building in Dayton when it was built in 1870. The present Women's Gymnasium building was the largest gymnasium in the state of Ohio when construction was finished in 1874. Teams from all over the country played on the basketball floor and just before World War I, the St. Mary's Institute team played the Buffalo Germans for the world basketball championship. St. Mary's won.

The old part of the campus, therefore, has been an integral part of community growth in Dayton for those 121 years.